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William F. Lang, IV  
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In re Application of  
O'NEILL, MICHAEL A., et al.  
Application No. 09/690,660  
Filed: October 17, 2000  
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD OF FORMING  
COMPOSITE STRUCTURES

Decision on Petition

In re Application of  
O'NEILL, MICHAEL A., et al.  
Application No. 09/981,083  
Filed: October 16, 2001  
For: FIBER-REINFORCED COMPOSITE  
STRUCTURE

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This is in response to the "Petition for Access" filed by William F. Lang, IV on behalf of the Meridan Group a copy of which was filed on August 12, 2002.

As explained below, the petition is **GRANTED IN PART**.

The petition was not filed with proof of service upon the attorney of record of the above referenced applications. Accordingly, a copy of the petition papers is enclosed.

Petitioner included with his petition a copy of a court order appointing The Meridian Group receiver of the property and assets of Advance USA LLC. The petition requests access be provided to The Meridian Group to all applications owned by Advance USA LLC.

The Office can only identify applications for which a proper assignment has been filed to Advance USA LLC, since the Office only decides issues of inventorship not ownership. Hence the Office is unable to identify any other applications for which Advance USA LLC might have an ownership interest for which a proper assignment has not been filed except as noted below.

The assignment record on reel 011395, starting at frame 0408, for application number 09-690,338 which became U.S. Patent No. 6,331,028 included divisional and continuation applications filed thereafter. Although no assignment has been filed for application no. 09-981,083, it claims to be a divisional application of the '338 application. Accordingly, for purposes of access the '083 application will be treated as if it is assigned to Advance USA LLC.

A review of Office records indicates the following applications are assigned to Advance USA LLC: 09-690,660 (status-pending) and 09-981,083 (status-pending).

Application No. 09/690,660 and 09-981,083

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With respect to the other applications identified in the petition, the request for access to application nos. 07-383,811 and 06-793,791 are addressed in separate papers. The request for access to all other applications is dismissed for the following reasons. Those applications which have matured into a patent are open to public inspection without a petition for access. Requests for access to International applications and European applications are controlled by the respective International and foreign offices. Any request for access to those applications should be addressed to the appropriate foreign office.

In summary, the petition is granted to the extent that petitioner may have access to applications: 09-690,660, and 09-981,083. A copy of this decision should be included with any request for access (i.e., included with any papers filed in the File Information Unit).

The request for access to any other applications is dismissed for above stated reasons or treated in a separate paper.

Any correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
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By FAX: (703) 872-9005  
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Telephone inquiries should be directed to Michael L. Lewis at (703) 306-5585.

  
Karin Ferriter  
Senior Legal Advisor

Attachment: Petition

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